

# Jaminjung language

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**Jaminjung** is a moribund [Australian language](#) spoken around the Victoria River in the [Northern Territory of Australia](#). There seems to be a steady increase in the number of speakers of the language with very few people speaking the language in 1967, about 30 speakers in 1991, and between 50 and 150 speakers in 2000.<sup>[4][5]</sup>

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## Phonology

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### Vowels

Jaminjung has 4 [vowels](#):<sup>[6]</sup>

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i /i/		u /u/
Close-mid	e /e/		
Open		a /a/	

<b>Jaminjung</b>	
<b>Native to</b>	Australia
<b>Region</b>	Victoria River (Northern Territory)
<b>Native speakers</b>	29 <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Language family</b>	Mirndi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Yirram</li> <li>▪ <b>Jaminjung</b></li> </ul>
<b>Dialects</b>	Ngaliwuru
<b>Language codes</b>	
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	djd
<b>Glottolog</b>	djam1255 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/djam1255">http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/djam1255</a> ) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>AIATSIS<sup>[3]</sup></b>	N18 ( <a href="https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/N18">https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/N18</a> ) Jaminjung, N19 ( <a href="https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/N19">https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/N19</a> ) Ngaliwurru

[Vowel length](#) is not distinctive. The [close-mid vowel](#) /e/ only appears in a small number of words, and is probably a loan from surrounding languages.<sup>[6]</sup>

### Consonants

Jaminjung has 18 [consonants](#).<sup>[6]</sup>

	Peripheral		Laminal		Apical	
	Bilabial	Velar	Palatal	Dental	Alveolar	Retroflex
Plosive	p /p/	k /k/	j /c/	th /t̪/	t /t/	rt /ʈ/
Nasal	m /m/	ng /ŋ/	ny /ɲ/		n /n/	rn /ɳ/
Trill					rr /r/	
Approximant			ly /ʎ/		l /ɿ/	rl /ɻ/
	w /w/	y /j/			r /ɻ/	

## External links

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- A corpus of Jaminjung recordings (<http://dobel.mpi.nl/projects/jaminjung/>) is archived with the DOBES project.

## References

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### Notes

1. "Census 2016, Language spoken at home by Sex (SA2+)" ([http://stat.data.abs.gov.au/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=ABS\\_C16\\_T09\\_SA](http://stat.data.abs.gov.au/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=ABS_C16_T09_SA)). *stat.data.abs.gov.au*. ABS. Retrieved 30 October 2017.
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Jaminjung-Ngaliwurru" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/djam1255>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. N18 (<https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/N18>) Jaminjung at the Australian Indigenous Languages Database, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (see the info box for additional links)
4. Schultze-Berndt 2000, pp. 13–14
5. Ethnologue ([http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=djd](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=djd))
6. Schultze-Berndt 2000, p. 41

## General

- Schultze-Berndt, Eva F. (2000), *Simple and Complex Verbs in Jaminjung - A Study of event categorisation in an Australian language*
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